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Top Cultist Slips Into U.S. Undetected

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29 (UPI)—A top aide to Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones slipped into the United States nearly a week ago, undetected by federal authorities.

Michael Prokes, 32, one of the few survivors of the Jonestown mass suicide-murders, contacted the FBI Thursday and was immediately served with a subpoena to appear Jan. 17 before a federal grand jury in San Francisco investigating the cult.

The FBI was unaware Prokes had returned to the United States from Guyana.

"There was no attempt to evade the FBI or the government in any way," said Prokes' attorney, Jerrold Ladar. "Their system did not function properly in connection with him."

Prokes was arrested by Guyanese authorities along with temple members Tim and Michael Carter several days after the jungle airstrip slaying of Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and four others that set off the mass suicide-murders of more than 900 persons, including Jim Jones.

At the time of their arrest, Prokes and the Carters were carrying more than $500,000 as well as two pistols.

They told police they had been given instuctions to deliver the money to the Soviet Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana, along with instructions on how the Soviets could obtain $7 million from bank accounts in Panama.

Prokes and the Carters were jailed for four days and then released Nov. 24 but ordered to stay in Guyana pending further investigation. The three, along with temple survivor Odell Rhodes, were given permission to leave Guyana Dec. 23.

Prokes' attorney said he had not decided whether to let his client talk to federal authorities prior to his grand jury appearance. The FBI has been routinely interviewing all survivors of the Guyana tragedy on their return to the United States.